

STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
Monthly Meeting Minutes, March 8, 2012
Scheman Continuing Education Bldg., Room 254
ISU Campus, Ames, IA

Appointed SSCC Members in Attendance

Dale Farnham, Ames
Jean Eells, Webster City
Vance Hjelm, Lake Park
Jody Kerns, Chair, Edgewood
Jeani Leyda, Bloomfield
Sherman Lundy, Cedar Falls
Kelly Tobin, New Market

Ex Officio Members and Advisors in Attendance

Jim Frederick, Conservation Districts of Iowa
Steve Hopkins, Department of Natural Resources
John Lawrence, Iowa State University, Ames
Richard Sims, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Dave Shanahan, Cherokee County Engineers Association

Staff in Attendance

Sarah Asberry, IDALS, DSC, Des Moines
Todd Coffelt, IDALS, DSC, Des Moines
Jim Gillespie, IDALS, DSC, Des Moines
Lori Lewis, IDALS, DSC, Des Moines
Vince Sitzmann, IDALS, DSC, Des Moines
Tarrita Spicer, IDALS, DSC, Des Moines

Absent:

Harold Whipple, Lacona

Called to Order Meeting:

Meeting was called to order at 9:10am.

Adopt Agenda:

2012 - 12 Tobin called for motion to adopt agenda. Eells moved, seconded by Kerns. Motion carried.

Adopt Minutes from January 24th meeting:

2012 - 13 Tobin called for motion to correct and approve previous minutes, stating Charles covered Region 4 not Tobin. Eells moved, seconded by Kerns. Motion carried.

Partner Report

Iowa Department of Natural Resources – Steve Hopkins:

DNR-FUNDED CONSERVATION PRACTICES REDUCE WATER POLLUTION IN 2011:

More than 20,000 tons of soil are staying put on the land and out of Iowa streams, rivers and lakes, thanks to conservation practices installed in fiscal year 2011, according to numbers released by the DNR.

Put that amount of soil in dump trucks, and it would make a line more than 6 miles long. The numbers indicate that conservation practices on agricultural and urban land are effectively reducing pollutants reaching Iowa's water. Local watershed projects work with landowners to use conservation practices in a watershed, which is an area of land that drains into a lake, river or stream. Common conservation practices include wetlands, ponds, terraces and buffers.

"We continue to make progress, improving our lakes, rivers and streams," said Bill Ehm, head of DNR's environmental services division. "Looking at the results over time, it shows that Iowans are taking ownership of their local waters. We enjoy working with Iowans to improve water quality and look forward to future successes."

Each year, the DNR helps fund a number of locally-led projects that help Iowans improve their water. Of those projects, 21 reported constructing a total of 307 conservation practices during federal fiscal year (FFY) 2011. From Oct. 1, 2010 to Sept. 30, 2011, those conservation practices:

- Reduced sediment reaching waterways by at least 20,985 tons per year.
- Reduced phosphorus reaching waterways by at least 27,164 pounds per year.
- Reduced nitrogen reaching waterways by at least 41,881 pounds per year.

One successful local effort in Jackson County installed practices that keep sediment and nutrients from reaching Tete Des Morts Creek. The Tete Des Morts project coordinator worked with landowners to install practices in federal fiscal year 2011 that reduced sediment delivery to the creek by 1,777 tons per year, enough to fill 118 dump trucks. Phosphorus was reduced by 2,310 pounds per year and nitrogen loading was reduced by 3,972 pounds per year.

These conservation practices will continue to reduce pollutants at the same rate if properly maintained. The new numbers apply only to practices installed in 2011 through DNR-funded watershed projects and do not reflect the total effects of all conservation practices in the state. Practices installed through DNR watershed projects since 2004 now collectively reduce sediment reaching Iowa's waters by 175,867 tons per year and phosphorus loading by 260,592 pounds per year.

The DNR is currently accepting applications for grant funding for new watershed efforts. More information is available at watershed.iowadnr.gov. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency provides DNR funding for nonpoint pollution programs.

Sediment can make water cloudy, damage the habitat of fish and other aquatic life, and fill in lakes and streambeds. High levels of nutrients, like phosphorus or nitrates, can cause algae blooms, increase drinking water costs and lead to poor aquatic life diversity.

DNR LAKE RESTORATION PROGRAM 2011 ANNUAL REPORT AVAILABLE

The 2011 annual report of the DNR Lake Restoration Program documents lake restoration progress and outlines future lake and watershed restoration projects. Successful lake restoration projects will improve lake water quality and recreational opportunities, contribute to community development efforts and make Iowa a better place to live and work. The 2011 report may be found on the website below:

<http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environment/WaterQuality/LakeRestoration.aspx>

Q&A/ addtl Comments

Gillespie (added note): HF2434 going to Ways and Means Committee today (3/8/12) having DNR sell state property to fund REAP program \$20 million. House Members: Tom Sands, Josh Burns (Vice Chair), Dave Jacoby, Peter Cownie, Betty Debouf, Greg Forstall, Pat Grassley, Lee Hind and Eric Heland.

Hopkins (added note): Core partner agencies are reviewing the non-point source plan and those agencies will sign the plan that will be submitted to EPA, Section 319 plan program. EPA is pressuring the states to update plans which should be done every 5yrs or states won't receive 319 funding.

Bureau Chief Reports

Field Services – Vince Sitzmann

Staffing

James McGrath, Soil Technician in Buchanan County retired in February, 2012

Connie Cummings, Secretary in Jefferson County will be retiring in March, 2012

Jamie Lowrey, Secretary in Clarke County, has accepted a new position effective March, 2012

Sarah Asberry, Program Planner in the Water Resources Bureau, was selected as the February Employee of the month for her outstanding efforts

The following employees received Certificates of Recognition for their outstanding efforts:

Cindy Andorf – Secretary for the Division Director

Cindy Davis, Hawthorn Lake SWCD Project Coordinator in Mahaska County

David Brand – Littlefield Lake and Prairie Rose Lake SWCD Project Coordinator in Audubon and Shelby Counties

The following Secretaries received CORs for their work on the Policies and Procedures Manual and for assisting other counties with their workload: Tammy Grebert, Fremont County; Belinda Greene, Mills County

Bonding 2 and Storm Damage Repair

Bonding 2 (Cost Share) – Spent \$5,519,000

Here are the top 10

HENRY SWCD	\$137,259.49
UNION SWCD	\$137,948.87
WAYNE SWCD	\$140,907.40
TAYLOR SWCD	\$147,177.88
MONTGOMERY SWCD	\$174,344.13
ADAMS SWCD	\$189,998.36
PAGE SWCD	\$190,350.12
KEOKUK SWCD	\$202,212.12
CASS SWCD	\$236,911.76
CLAYTON SWCD	\$290,199.17

Storm Damage Repair – Spent \$2,903,000

Here are the top 10

WAYNE SWCD	\$70,363.26
MARION SWCD	\$87,519.90
KEOKUK SWCD	\$114,151.14
ADAMS SWCD	\$132,951.86
MAHASKA SWCD	\$202,029.11
VAN BUREN SWCD	\$212,013.89
DELAWARE SWCD	\$213,449.82
WASHINGTON SWCD	\$297,304.74
UNION SWCD	\$350,587.26
HENRY SWCD	\$464,649.11

State Revolving Fund/Low Interest Loan

Tony Toigo and Wayne Peterson are working on a Sponsor Program with DNR and Iowa Finance Authority (IFA) to pilot in one or two Iowa communities. The sponsor program has to be associated with and done in conjunction with a city taking out an SRF loan for

traditional sewer work. 100% of the interest that would have been incurred can be applied to nonpoint source water quality practices in a specified watershed. The charts below show how it would work.

On a typical CWSRF loan, the utility borrows principal and repays principal plus interest.

Typical CWSRF Loan

Borrow	Wastewater Project \$1,000,000	
Repay	Principal \$1,000,000 +	3% Interest \$330,000

As shown below on a CWSRF loan with a **WRR sponsored project**, the utility borrows for both the wastewater improvement project and the WRR project. However, the utility's ratepayers do not pay any more than they would have for just the wastewater improvements. Instead, the city gets two projects for the price of one.

CWSRF Loan with WRR Sponsored Project

Borrow	Wastewater Project \$1,000,000 + WRR Project \$330,000 = \$1,330,000	
Repay	Principal \$1,330,000 at 0% Interest	

Urban Conservation:

Amy Bouska and Wayne Peterson are working with Kirkwood Community College (KCC) to incorporate training on infiltration-based stormwater practices and Rainscaping strategies into their turf and natural resources degree programs. KCC is thinking about incorporating an Urban Conservation Certification into these degrees as an elective. If all goes well, Amy and Wayne will be putting together a 1 or 2 credit course into their existing turf and/or natural resources programs.

District Initiatives:

Farm Bill XI and Farm Bill XII contracts with participating SWCDs will be finalized in the next couple of weeks.

Working with districts on district issues:

Staff has been attending Spring Regionals.

Staff has been encouraging Districts to hold "Legislative Meetings" to make contact with their Representatives and talk with them about the functions of the District and provide them with information about the challenges they face in assisting with conservation efforts at the local level.

Watershed Projects

Water Quality Project applications for the WPF, WSPF, and Public owned Lakes Programs were sent to all Districts. Applications are due April 2, 2012

Field Representatives are in the process of conducting Annual Reviews for all water quality projects. The reviews include an evaluation of how the project is progressing, discussion on what's working well, what can be improved, and how to make necessary improvements. Soil Committee members are welcome to attend.

Soil and Water Resource Conservation Plans (SWRCP)

Iowa Code requires SWCDs to have a 5-year SWRCP and to keep it updated. Most districts have plans, but they are outdated. DSC is in the process of developing a Quality Improvement Process Team (QIP) to develop updated guidance and a template for the 5-year SWRCP to make it a more useful, simple, and functional tool for the SWCDs

Q&A/ addtl Comments

Coffelt- in regards to the SRF program, where are the intended locations?

A: currently only Davenport and Indianola

Lundy- is there any info available on this program that they can take back to share with their districts?

A: will have Tony send info, but starting with just a few counties at this time to assess the program.

Vince will work with districts to contact committee members so they can attend commissioner meetings when available.

Mines & Minerals – Coffelt

1) AML Program

- i) See handout. (attached to original minutes)
- ii) Professional Services contract
 - (a) 22 firms responding, 8 interviewed, 4 moving ahead with contract negotiation.
- iii) 2012 NAAML P Conference in Des Moines
 - (1) Reclamation for the Next Generation: Partnering for Success
 - (2) 200+ registrations is goal
 - (3) Pre-Conference Tours
 - (a) Newton – Knoxville Raceways
 - (b) Bridges / Duke in Madison County
 - (c) Waveland Golf Course – Longest running public golf course West of the Mississippi.
 - (4) 3 tours:
 - (a) History of Coal Mining in Iowa - SE
 - (b) Active Mining in Iowa - North
 - (c) Natural Stream Regrade – Will be one of the tracks offered throughout the conference.
 - (5) www.2012NAAML P.com
 - (a) Sept 23rd-26th
 - (6) Pre-Conference Tours
 - (a) Newton – Knoxville Raceways
 - (b) Bridges / Duke
 - (c) Waveland Golf Course – Longest running public golf course West of the Mississippi.
- iv) OSM / BLM merger
- v) President's proposed budget – create competitive grant process
- vi) Anticipated field day in late June

2) Coal Regulatory Program

- i) Enhancement projects at multiple sites to address culvert failures and respond to landowner concerns.
- ii) No permit applications received at this time.

3) Minerals Program

- i) All license and site registrations have been received for 2012.
- ii) ILPA annual meeting in Coralville in February.

- iii) Inspections will commence as weather permits.

Possible contact to follow up with from Knox, Illinois Don Rosebum (USGS)

Water Resources – Coffelt

- 1) DSC Dispatch
 - a) SSCC member profiles
 - b) Other information to include?
- 2) CREP
 - a) There are 8 sites planned for restoration this summer.
 - b) We have set up 3 CREP Tours hosted by Iowa Learning Farms this summer.
 - i) July 10th-CREP site near Colo, IA in Story Co. @ 10 am
 - ii) July 12th-CREP site in southwestern Dickinson Co. @ 1:30 pm
 - iii) July 24th-CREP sites north of Graettinger in Emmet Co. @ 1:30 pm
 - iv) Also, Madison SWCD, Badger Creek Lake Watershed Improvement Group and ILF are hosting a field day on a CREP site in Madison Co. @ 5pm on Saturday, July 14th.
- 3) IFLM: Iowa Learning Farms recently wrapped up regional meetings with our farmer partners across the state – attended by approximately 30% of the farmer partners. ILF led their own track during the Iowa Water Conference that focused on Iowa 2035. Field day dates have been announced for the season – if you did not pick up a field day guide during the water conference, be sure to get your hands on one. The first field day is a cover crop management workshop on March 28th near Boone. The next ILF webinar is Wednesday, March 21st, beginning at 11:30 am, be sure to tune in.
- 4) Regional Coordinators
 - i) Water Quality Project Annual Reviews are taking place
 - ii) Regional Meetings
 - iii) Iowa Water Conference
 - iv) Currently involved in the development of 18 new watershed-based projects. Of these, only 3-5 will be seeking new funding in 2012, with the rest due in 2013 or 2014.
 - v) Completed 2 Grazing workshops (Fairfield, Waterloo) for 15 coordinators with the help of
- 5) Watershed Development and Planning Assistance Grants
 - a) The most recent RFP closed 2-15-12. Five applications were received. The review and tentative selections meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 9. The goal is to have new projects selected and contracts written in time for the awarded projects to start this spring.
- 6) Watershed Improvement Review Board
 - a) Eight grant agreements have been written for new projects selected for funding last fall. Seven have started.
 - b) Heavy workload with approximately seventeen projects completed or nearing completion--review draft final reports, assist projects submit amendments as needed, review and comment on final reports, forward to the WIRB for their review.
 - c) Next WIRB teleconference is Wednesday, March 14
 - d) April WIRB meeting is Friday, April 20. Plans are underway to tour WIRB-funded projects in northeast Iowa.
 - e) WIRB displayed a poster and staffed a booth to visit with legislators regarding WIRB and the Watershed Improvement Fund at Water Day and Conservation Partner Day at the Capitol.
 - f) The nutrient mass balance study being funded by the WIRB and being completed in cooperation with IDALS and Iowa State University is underway. Laura Christiansen, Agricultural Biosystems Engineering post doc appointment, is completing the literature review. A meeting of subject-matter experts from Iowa and other Upper Midwest states was convened on Tuesday, February 28 to discuss nutrient balance in the soil and related topics.

Q&A/ addtl Comments

Let Tarrita know if there is info you would like in DSC Dispatch to share with Sarah.

Tobin- How much is left in WIRB fund?

A: Yes, Currently we're over obligated based on contract amounts. July 1, DNR penalties will start to fund. However, there may not be an RFP any time soon.

Partner Reports

Natural Resource Conservation Service – Rich Sims

Conservation Compliance Arial Flights to Go Statewide

Last year NRCS in Iowa conducted a pilot project in Areas 1 and 4 where we administered mandatory highly erodible land and wetland compliance reviews by taking pictures from a small airplane. There were enough positive items to take from this that I have decided to cover all initial compliance reviews from the air.

However, instead of using NRCS staff to fly along and take pictures, we have contracted with a firm to fly the entire list of tracts and take pictures at low elevation. We will have a Compliance Team review the pictures before a field visit is scheduled. This will allow for immediate knowledge of ephemeral gullies, waterways in need of repair, and the overall condition of the tract. Currently, I believe residue amounts will still need to be determined during the field review.

Another significant change will be the person conducting the field reviews. The local district conservationist will not be making the compliance review for anyone in their domicile county.

Overall, we learned several lessons from last year's pilot project:

- The darker the hue of the soil, the better it is to determine residue levels from the air.
- We needed additional details information from the case files when looking at tracts from the air.
- Ephemeral erosion is easily observed from the air, versus walking the tract.
- We dramatically improved the overall review quality with significant training to fewer people.

I will let you know the results of our 2012 reviews. The only way we will get better at our jobs is to try new ideas.

We will be extending the team approach to wetland determinations next year.

Personnel

We have had several retirements and promotions this year. I have doubled the amount of funds to move people into these positions. At this time we will have to delay filling a few positions. A move with a home is now costing about \$80,000 - \$110,000.

Recent personnel actions within the Iowa Leadership Team:

- Jeff Zimprich, ASTC-FO in Atlantic, is Acting State Conservationist in Illinois, effective January 23, 2012
 - o Larry Beeler, ASTC-Programs, is Acting ASTC-FO in Atlantic, effective January 23, 2012
 - o Paul Goldsmith, District Conservationist in Creston, is Acting ASTC-Programs, effective January 23, 2012
- Bruce Trautman, ASTC-FO in Fairfield, retirement effective March 2, 2012
 - o Allen Gehring, State Conservation Engineer will be Acting ASTC-FO in Fairfield, effective March 5, 2012
 - o Mark McCurdy, Civil Engineer will be Acting State Conservation Engineer, effective March 5, 2012
- Matt Drechsel, is the new ASTC-FO in West Union, effective February 27, 2012
- Aquanda Jones, ASTC-FO in Fort Dodge, new position at the Georgia State Office, effective April 8, 2012

Programs

General Wetlands Reserve Enhancement Program (WREP) –

- 1) Iowa, Nebraska, Missouri, South Dakota, and Kansas with sponsoring from The Nature Conservancy submitted a project proposal.
- 2) Iowa Department of Natural Resources submitted a project proposal.

Mississippi River Basin Initiative (MRBI –WREP) – Iowa anticipates one project proposal.

All program deadlines are nearing completion. After contracts are finalized, the field offices will continue to work with the participants toward conservation implementation and good contract management.

Q&A/ addtl Comments

-Corn Suitability Rating (CSR) has changed. CSR II is being used to get info out there.

Changes to the T&K

T = acceptable soil loss

K = texture of soil

Due to Science and Technology soil loss of 5 going to 3; Change to management plans.

Water Quality

Directions will be out tomorrow 3/9/12, \$800K set aside, 3 watersheds identified.

Kerns- Jeff Zimprich gone?

A: 120 days sharing with Illinois

Lundy- How soon will CSR II be available?

A: currently it is being released in Cass Co, Dickinson. Rick Bednarek will share information.

It may take around six months or more for CSR II to go active; County Assessors are in charge of passing it through.

Director's Report – Jim Gillespie

New Hires

Vince Sitzmann has been hired to fill the vacant Bureau Chief position in the Field Services Bureau. Vince has been serving as the Field Representative in Southeast Iowa, he has also worked in the Department as an Environmental Specialist for the Rathbun Watershed Project, Environmental Specialist in the Mines and Minerals Bureau, and as Environmental Specialist Senior in the Water Resources Bureau as a Regional Coordinator. He brings the knowledge, skills and abilities to this position to be a great supervisor and administrator.

Tarrita Spicer has been hired as the Administrative Assistant to the Director and will be providing support to the State Soil Conservation Committee. Tarrita was currently working for the Iowa Personnel Retirement System (IPERS), previously for the Girl Scouts of America and Principal Financial Group. She brings a strong background in providing assistance and support to boards and staff with program administration.

Let us welcome both of these people to their new positions.

Other News

We are working with NRCS to set up hearings in 35 districts this year to review and set new soil loss limits. The State Soil Conservation Committee will need to review and approve draft amended soil loss limits for those 35 districts. We plan to get all districts soil loss limits reviewed and updated in the next three years. We are discussing this at the regional meetings.

We partnered on two Soil Survey distribution meetings in Cass county and Dickinson county. Both meetings were well attended and it is great that we (IDALS/DSC and SSCC) remain a strong partner.

We are wrapping up Farm Bill XI and starting Farm Bill XII with Districts, CDI and NRCS. There were 78 districts applied and we are getting contracts back and we are processing those to get our Conservation Reserve Program (District Initiative) funds out there to support the Soil Conservation Aides. These are all product oriented and they need to complete what they applied and approved for. If they complete other products above that they could also report those to be able to show what was actually accomplished with these dollars.

DSC is in the process of developing a pilot program that will provide funding to SWCDs to support an intern position. SWCDs interested in the intern position need to contact the Division. DSC will evaluate SWCD interest in the program and then request that formal applications be submitted.

The following are specifics about the program:

- DSC will fund up to 90% of an hourly wage with a minimum 10% local match required.
- The total number of positions filled will depend on SWCD interest and DSC funding availability.
- The position will be limited to 480 hours at a wage of not more than \$10 per hour (\$9 DSC contribution).
- Positions will be SWCD staff and payroll will be through the SWCD process.
- These funds cannot be used to support benefits such as vacation, holiday or sick pay.

Requirements

- Must be enrolled in college or recent graduate majoring in a field of study related to agriculture, conservation, engineering, construction trades, GIS, communications, public relations or urban planning.
- A significant portion of the intern's time must be spent working on CRP related items.

Position Duties

- Types of work activities are up to each SWCD to decide, but it should be a diversified set of activities that supports the mission of DSC, SWCDs and supporting partners.
- Examples might include: practice layout and checkout, conservation planning, mapping, landowner contacts, news articles, water monitoring, urban conservation, resource inventory and others.

Legislative Update

Included in the 52 page Department of Agriculture omnibus bill are several provisions dealing with the Division of Soil Conservation and conservation districts. Here is a summary of the provisions:

- Eliminates an outdated reporting requirement relating to comprehensive management plans.
- Provides that an owner of land may be required to maintain a permanent soil and conservation practice for less than 20 years.
- Requires the department rather than the soil conservation division to submit annual fiscal reports to the department of management.
- Eliminates references to a conservation folder that must be part of a farm unit conservation plan developed by a landowner and a soil and water conservation district identifying soil and water conservation practices.
- Extends the period for the summer construction of soil and water conservation practices, and eliminates restrictions upon how much cost-share moneys may be expended to support such construction.
- Eliminates a provision which prohibits the allocation of cost-share moneys to support summer construction projects when moneys are not available to fund applications to establish permanent cost-share practices.
- It talks about "Conservation Cover" definition 15 year prior to January 1, 1981 – goes back to 1965 – now would read used for row crop production in prior 15 years.

IDALS BUDGET

2/28/12

	FY11	FY12	Difference	SSCC/CDI FY13 Request	Northey Request	Governor's FY13 Recommends*	House File 2336 (Increases)
General Fund	\$16,872,308	\$16,497,308	-\$375,000	\$18,159,893	\$1,692,585		\$1,383,000
Environment First/Bonding							
Ag Drainage Wells	\$1,250,000	\$0	-\$1,250,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000		\$1,300,000
WSPF	\$1,500,000	\$900,000	-\$600,000	\$1,900,000	\$1,000,000	\$900,000	
IFLM	\$750,000	\$625,000	-\$125,000	\$625,000		\$625,000	
Cost Share	\$7,000,000	\$6,300,000	-\$700,000	\$8,300,000	\$2,000,000	\$6,300,000	\$700,000
CRP/DI	\$1,300,000	\$1,000,000	-\$300,000	\$2,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	
CREP	\$4,000,000	\$1,000,000	-\$3,000,000	\$1,000,000		\$1,000,000	
Soil & Water Admin	\$1,751,600	\$2,000,000	+\$248,400	\$2,859,376	\$859,000	\$2,000,000	
Urban Conservation	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000		
	\$34,423,908	\$28,322,308	-\$6,101,600	\$36,844,269			
Amount Available for S & W Administration	\$3,431,600	\$3,297,500	-\$134,100	\$4,856,876			
Southern Iowa Con. & Dev.	\$250,000	\$0	-\$250,000	\$0			\$250,000
Loess Hills	\$500,000	\$475,000	-\$25,000	\$475,000		\$475,000	\$200,000

*Governor's FY13 Recommendations are equal to what we received for FY12 with no increases built in.

Q&A/ addtl Comments

Gillespie (added notes) - This budget is currently in the Senate, approved in the House at 51-47. So far the Senate has made changes to the AG Drainage Well program and cutting it back to \$500k, taking it out of the Infrastructure and funding from another source.

Tobin – Will we receive more Cost Share dollars?

A: It looks like we can at least expect the same amount that we received in 2012, but could see some increase. The House has put money towards us in the operations side; which means we can maintain the people we have and increase by a little. We must hold vacancies open until we have a final budget set.

Sarah is employee of the month for February. Partnership Day was a great success and she is already getting a jump start on 2013 plans. She's working on DSC Dispatch as well as Learning Farms.

Jim will work with Kelly to set up conference calls on soil loss limits if needed. Once the committee approves them they will be sent back to the district and they will have to hold a public meeting.

Jim is working with Dave Dorff to review conduct and ethics of appointed members. After members are confirmed you should receive a packet of policies. Bring Dave in to review the policies and parameters.

Tarrita/Jim will work on a State Committee Member Handbook, when and why things happen. Over the next year we will work to get that drafted and sent out for review. Information will also be added within to address perspective committee candidates; including time commitment and other information that would help anyone considering. As the process goes the information will be shared with the planning committee.

Tony Toigo: came in to discuss briefly the SRF program. SRF typically spent on water treatment and loans are paid to cities. No rate increase to borrower so what they borrow they pay back; must be tied to waste water project. Determined by watershed but not size; must be a qualified water restoration project. Sponsorship program- a city cannot sponsor itself. Must be a non-profit watershed program. The applicant is the city, must go before EPC before.

Kelly – Tony can you keep us updated on SRF monthly?

A: Yes

Q: Cash flow standpoint, how are they going to ensure that a city isn't taking on projects, etc and depending on another funding source to pay for upgrades.

A: There is a cap to try and keep borrowers from being in a bind by borrowing more money than they may be able to pay at a later date.

Shannahan (suggested)- making someone on the borrower side aware of the cash flow process, how money is spent and making them fiscally responsible and informed.

Engineers – Dave Shanahan

Operating at a \$2 million deficit, when you are expecting counties to be able to repair their own bridges and structures, puts a burden on counties.

Make sure everyone is aware of issues in paying for watershed projects operations and maintenance. It would be nice if conservation districts were able to pay for it.

There is a potential for loss of capital and loss of life with not having structures repaired, and no specific county/district is responsible for paying for repairs.

Kerns: get SSCC on one of your engineering meetings so we can all share ideas/work together and possibly share costs some way.

Conservation Districts of Iowa – Jim Frederick

5 Regional meetings are done and 4 coming up.

Working with Vince to get commissioners more active with local people, tour watersheds and invite to meetings.

Fall conference working with Lori.

NACD – talking points on how much money is needed. Also, trying to get Gillespie to go to next NACD conference in San Antonio.

Leyda – Region 9 update. Meetings are more informative with modules.

Gillespie is giving copies of resolutions to CDI.

Tobin talked about Resolution #10 for the subcommittee. Also discussed having 4 (2 CDI & 2 SSCC) members and staff to review resolutions before distribution.

Iowa State Extension – John Lawrence

ISU Report 3-8-12

Upcoming events

Biomass Crop Production Workshop, Creston, March 8. This workshop will provide information about miscanthus and other perennial bioenergy crops for energy generation in southern Iowa. Farmers, energy producers, land managers and anyone interested in biomass production are welcome to attend and learn more.

Herbicide resistance workshops at 5 locations:

March 12 Spencer - [Clay County Regional Events Center Map Register](#) March 13 Independence - [Heartland Acres Agribition Center Map Register](#) March 14 Atlantic - [Cass County Community Center Map Register](#) March 15 Ames - [Quality Inn/Starlight Village Map Register](#) March 16 Iowa City - [Clarion Inn/Highlander Conference Center Map Register](#)

Herbicide resistance weeds represent one of the most important issues facing agriculture in Iowa. The lack of diversity in weed management has resulted in widespread resistance to glyphosate in common waterhemp, giant ragweed and marehail. The objective of this meeting is to provide information about the causes of herbicide-resistant weed populations, objectively evaluate weed management programs that are commonly recommended in Iowa, and support the design of durable weed management programs for attendees. Individual weed management options will be discussed and assessed for adoption by growers to manage the growing herbicide-resistant weed problem.

Q&A/ addtl Comments

Central Iowa Stover Team (Poet & Dupont) more info in the future.

NE IA trying to hire Ag Engineer –interviewing two.

Farm Progress Show, Tuesday-Thursday last week in August 2012.

We should have our attorneys look over the liability if any when you do tours on privately owned land; using the landowner as the tour guide.

*Tarrita provided a link since this meeting with article

http://www.iowacourts.gov/court_of_appeals/Recent_Opinions/20120229/1-967.pdf

*Lundy suggested everyone participating as well as the organizer sponsoring that they sign a liability waiver.

Leopold Center – Jody Kerns

Just celebrated 25th anniversary, they have a new Director Mark Rasmussen

They are dealing with “how can they narrow their focus.”

Spencer award was given to a few families.

New website: <http://www.leopold.iastate.edu/>

Q&A/ addtl Comments

Kerns- discussed how there is no representation of landowners on the Advisory Board

Tobin- Can Mark attend one of our meetings?

A: Yes, Tarrita/Jim will work together to get this on his calendar.

Farnham- made an observation that he didn't hear a lot about the Leopold Center during the Water Conference.

Old Business

Regional Meetings- 1, 2, 3 and 6 are still left. (5 meetings have been held)

Summer Tour- Region 8, David Carter from Mills or Fremont would be a good person to share pics of before/after of the area since it may look different by June.

Tentative schedule

Monday – all day tour (south) lunch in between (using charter bus)

Tuesday – Business meetings (AM) and Optional tour in the afternoon (using vans)

Save the Date will be out by the end of March and the Agenda will follow in April

New Business

QST – Soil and Water Resource Conservation Plans - Sitzmann

- 5yr SWRC Plan each district must have a plan by Code of Iowa. Would like to simplify the process, may take up to a year. Possible committee to work on this: CDI, Weber, State Committee, Whipple, Coffelt, Sitzmann.

Q: Lundy asked if a 5 yr plan is effect, with commissioners having a 4yr term.

A: Sitzmann – they can look at something code wise to make changes to the wording.

Sitzmann will contact possible members. Jim will look up resolution code wording, etc. As an agency we need to create a plan: take into account district plans and where do we want to be; create our own plan.

2012 Soil & Water Conservation Week – Sarah Asberry

April 29th-May 6th. Celebrating early in conjunction with NACD. What would the SSCC like to do with this program, get the communication out about this event and what can we do during this week?

- Radio spots, table tops, church bulletins, Lori Grovers (TV), testimonials, newspapers. Laura Greiner would have contacts.

Tobin – each district does their own but usually the churches put in their bulletin; will contact local radio stations in his area.

Jim will send something out regarding this week that we can share with districts, etc.

Subcommittee Reports

Planning Subcommittee – 2011 CDI Resolution #10

Will be reviewed at April 5, 2012, Planning Subcommittee meeting.

2011 CDI Proposed Resolutions

10. Full-time secretaries in every Soil Conservation Office

A full-time secretary is essential in all 100 SWCD's for soil Conservation.

Proposed Resolution: Therefore be it resolved that the Division of Soil Conservation investigate ALL possibilities for necessary funding including State Cost-share dollars.

Without a full-time secretary, we Commissioners cannot provide the necessary means to protect soil and water resources in the county.

Explanation:

As of today we have lost almost 1/4 of our secretaries; 21 offices out of 100 are without a full-time secretary. This causes hardships for that county as well as the county whose full-time secretary has been asked to cover the vacant office. The additional work, hours and travel time leaves both offices at a loss at any one given time throughout any given day. This is not acceptable to us as commissioners in an office experiencing the vacancy.

Submitted By: Clay SWCD

Region 1

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For Further Information Contact:

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May, 2011

Vacancies in the Office of SWCD Commissioner

Vacancy: (previously approved and noted)

Winnebago SWCD – elected but declined the position

Accept the resignation of Kyle Bohnker, February 16, 2012, Crawford SWCD

Vacancy due to commissioners' unanimous vote to declare Bradley White's seat vacant, Emmet SWCD

Approve filling this vacancy with another commissioner

2012 – 14 Sherman Lundy made motion to approve all vacancies. Jean Eells seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

SSCC Member Reports

- Farnham attended both the Water Conference, ISU Extension Soil Fertility course and Partnership Day on the Hill.
- Lundy –Region 4 – well attended. Water conference had over 90 attendees. Legislation day went well, all representatives in the area were there.
- Kerns – visited all offices in her area. Plans to visit several times a year. As a committee we should be more aware of how we communicate the message to people, a lot of the key people are not even aware of what we do.
- Tobin – testified to the House Appropriation, House Ag Committee, Senate Ag Committee. Attended Corning Regional meeting, shared his cell number with them in order to receive future meeting dates.
- Leyda volunteered to go to Vince's regional meetings.
- Kerns stated she would not be at the April meeting.

Future Meetings

April 5 – 10:00 a.m. – Conference Room 2, Wallace State Office Bldg.
(9:00 a.m. for subcommittee if needed)

May 3 – 10:00 a.m. – Conference Room 2, Wallace State Office Bldg.
(9:00 a.m. for subcommittee if needed)

2012 - 15 Sherman Lundy moved to adjourn, Seconded by Jean Eells. Motion carried.